Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Fish and Wildlife - Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat	Maintain and enhance sage-grouse habitat.	Guidance and direction from the Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage-Grouse in Montana – Final.				
		Prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments to reduce or increase sagebrush cover to desired levels for nesting, brood rearing, breeding habitat, and winter habitat.				Mechanical treatment the primary method and prescribed fire a secondary method to remove conifers that encroach on sage-grouse habitat.
	Specify locations for salt and other supplements.	No supplemental feeding, mineral placement or other livestock congregating function in identified active sage-grouse habitat during sensitive seasonal times.				Placement of salt or mineral supplements avoided (or not allowed) near leks during the breeding season (March 1 to June 15). Supplemental winter feeding of livestock avoided, where practical, on sage-grouse winter habitat and around leks.
	Maintain sagebrush stands.	Acres of sagebrush habitat increased through conversion of crested wheatgrass in selected areas in or near nesting habitat, and native sagebrush reseeded in areas that have been disturbed (e.g., wildland fire).				Sage planting promoted, where appropriate. Areas disturbed by treatments reclaimed and/or reseeded when necessary.
	Adjust livestock grazing densities and/ or change season of use (end by Oct. 31).	High livestock densities not allowed in identified active nesting habitat from March 1 to June 15. When conditions are required for sage-grouse security, livestock grazing would not occur in identified active winter habitat.			Livestock grazing not allowed in identified sage-grouse nesting	Concentration of livestock near leks or key sage-grouse habitat discouraged to

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
					habitat from March 1 to June 15. Livestock grazing not allowed in identified winter habitat from Dec. 1 to March 31.	avoid potential disturbance or displacement of sage-grouse.
Fish and Wildlife - Black-tailed Prairie Dog Towns	Towns smaller than 10 acres not actively managed (Blaine County). Towns managed based on values or problems (Fergus and Chouteau Counties) Towns maintained at the 1988 level (Phillips County).	Guidance and direction from the Conservation Plan for Black-Tailed and White-Tailed Prairie Dogs in Montana. Regional plans utilized when completed.				
		Towns allowed to expand as long as they are not adversely impacting adjacent private or state land, other resources, or affecting Standards for Rangeland Health.			Towns allowed to expand.	Towns allowed to expand as long as they are not adversely impacting adjacent private or state land, other resources, or affecting Standards for Rangeland Health.
Fish and Wildlife - Mitigation Measures for Surface-Disturbing or Disruptive Activities						
Greater Sage-Grouse						
Lek	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 500 feet.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile.			No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 2 miles.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile.
Nesting Area	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within strutting grounds from March 1 to June 30.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 2 miles of a lek from March 1 to June 15.			No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 2 miles of a lek.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 2 miles of a lek from March 1 to June 15.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Winter Habitat	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to May 15.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31.			No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.	No new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31.
Black-tailed Prairie Dog Towns	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile of identified essential habitat.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.	Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities avoid, or minimize disturbance.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile, if an activity adversely impacts prairie dogs and/or associated species.		No new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/4 mile, if an activity adversely impacts prairie dogs and/or associated species.
Designated Sensitive Species	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded within 200 meters of the activity or the activity delayed 60 days within identified habitat or active nests.		Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded within identified habitat or within 1/4 mile of active nests.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded within identified habitat or within 1/4 mile of active nests. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded from March 1 to Aug. 1 within 1/2 mile of active nests.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded within identified habitat or within 1/2 mile of active nests.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded within 1/4 mile of the proposed activity or the activity delayed 90 days within identified habitat or active nests. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities controlled or excluded from March 1 to Aug. 1 within 1/2 mile of ferruginous hawk nests.
Bald Eagle	Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within 1/2 mile of a nest that has been active		No new surface-disturbing or

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	controlled or excluded within 1/4 mile of identified essential habitat.	within 1 mile of active winter roosting areas from Nov. 15 to Feb. 29, if disturbance could cause an adverse effect. No surface disturbance within 1 mile of active bald eagle nest sites from Feb. 1 to July 31, if disturbance could cause nest abandonment or failure.	within 1/2 mile of a nest that has been active in the last 7 years.	in the last 7 years and within riparian area nesting habitat.		disruptive activities within 1/2 mile of a nest that has been active in the last 7 years, if disturbance could cause nest abandonment or failure.
Big Game Winter Range (Elk, Mule Deer, and Antelope)	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to May 15.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31.		No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to May 15.	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.	No new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31 (timeframe shortened if conditions warrant).
Bighorn Sheep Distribution	Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities controlled or excluded within 200 meters of the activity or the activity delayed 60 days.		No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31.		No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.	No new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from Dec. 1 to March 31.
Bighorn Sheep Lambing Areas	Surface-disturbing or disruptive activities controlled or excluded within 200 meters of the activity or the	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from April 1 to June 15, if activities adversely impact lamb survival.		No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities, if activities adversely impact lamb	No surface-disturbing or disruptive activities within a 1-mile line of sight, if activities	No new surface-disturbing or disruptive activities from April 1 to June 15, if activities

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	activity delayed 60 days.			survival.	adversely impact lamb survival.	adversely impact lamb survival.
Vegetation	Restore or establish native riparian vegetation.	Activity plan updates emphasize riparian habitat restoration and protection. If the opportunity is available, establish resource reserve allotments.			Activity plan updates emphasize riparian habitat protection. No resource reserve allotments.	Activity plan updates emphasize riparian habitat restoration and protection. If the opportunity is available, establish resource reserve allotments (e.g., Hay Coulee).
		Restore priority non-native vegetation sites to a native species community (control highly invasive non-native species).		Restore all non-native vegetation sites to a native species community.		Restore priority non-native vegetation sites to a native species community (control highly invasive non-native species).
		To achieve vegetation goals in an activity plan (watershed plan), livestock grazing strategies used to manage vegetation communities.				
		Rehabilitate surface-disturbed areas with native and non-native grasses, forbs and shrubs.	Rehabilitate surface-disturbed areas with native grasses, forbs and shrubs. Non-native plants used under special circumstances.	Rehabilitate surface-disturbed areas with native and non-native grasses, forbs and shrubs.		Rehabilitate surface-disturbed areas with native grasses, forbs and shrubs. Non-native plants used under special circumstances.
Reclamation	Previously disturbed sites allowed to reclaim naturally.	Reclamation standards to minimize erosion and establish native vegetation. In some areas disturbed surfaces allowed to reclaim naturally.		Reclamation standards based on leaving no trace. Surface recontoured to a natural repose and sites revegetated where disturbance exceeds 1/10 acre.		Reclamation standards to minimize erosion and establish native vegetation. In some areas disturbed surfaces allowed to

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						reclaim naturally.
		Non-functional reservoirs, pits and water developments allowed to reclaim naturally, if feasible.		Non-functional and beyond repair reservoirs, pits and water developments in WSAs, or where there is viewshed infringement, removed and rehabilitated, if feasible.		
		For previously disturbed sites a reclamation plan completed as needed.				
Range Improvements						
Barbed Wire and Electric Fences	Standard specifications for fence installation to mitigate risk to wildlife.	Standard specifications with allowances for certain classes or types of livestock. Four-wire fences authorized if the class or kind of livestock necessitates the need. Modify existing fences, if creating barriers to wildlife movement. In isolated cases, relocate fences to better fit with topography and management needs.			Standard specifications followed but four-wire fences not allowed. Modify all existing fences to standard. Relocate fences that do not fit with the landscape.	Standard specifications with allowances for certain classes or types of livestock. Four-wire fences authorized if the class or kind of livestock necessitates the need. Additional wildlife mitigation may apply to some fences. Modify existing fences, if creating barriers to wildlife movement. In isolated cases, relocate fences to better fit with topography and management needs.
Water Developments	Water developments limited on some terminal ridges.	Water developments considered on a site-specific basis, based on the benefits/detriment to all resources to improve the health of the land. Water developments based on the grazing practices within a specific area and other resources.				

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Visual Resource Management (VRM)						
VRM Class I	Surface-disturbing activities may require special design to blend with the natural surroundings.		Reduce visual contrast by site selection, reduced disturbance, color, and reclamation.	Surface-disturbing activities may be prohibited in VRM Class I areas. Maintenance of existing range improvements and other structures in VRM Class I areas would be allowed. In the WSAs the VRM Class I designation would not prevent the construction of structures or maintenance of existing structures that would be allowed in the WSAs under the Interim Management Policy (IMP). The VRM objectives are designed to support the IMP guidelines to not impair the natural character of the existing landscape.		
VRM Class II, III or IV	Surface-disturbing activities may require special design to blend with the natural surroundings.			Reduce visual contrast by site selection, reduced disturbance, color, and reclamation.	Surface-disturbing activities may be prohibited in VRM Class II areas.	Reduce visual contrast by site selection, reduced disturbance, color, and reclamation.
VRM Classes	***No. Acres***	***No. Acres***	***No. Acres***	***No. Acres***	***No. Acres***	***No. Acres***
Class I	61,700	111,480	62,000	111,480	111,480	111,480
Class II	118,800	104,320	217,000	263,520	263,520	161,560
Class III	8,200	8,200	17,500	0	0	24,770
Class IV	186,300	151,000	78,500	0	0	77,190
Forest Products	Product sales available outside of the WSAs and UMNWSR. Designate areas for personal use. Limited to dead-and-down material in the UMNWSR.	Product sales associated with other projects/activities and vegetative goals or objectives. Minimal harvest techniques where forest health is in jeopardy. Designate areas for personal use.		Minimal harvest techniques where forest health is in jeopardy. Designate areas for personal use. With a permit, individuals can utilize material from wildland fires.	Product sales and incidental personal use prohibited.	Minimal harvest techniques where forest health is in jeopardy. Designate areas for personal use. With a permit, individuals can utilize material from wildland fires.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Rights-of-Way (ROWs)						
Corridors	Seven corridors across the Missouri River: Highway 191, Secondary Highway 236, McClelland/ Stafford Ferry, DY Trail/Power Plant, Highway 80, Loma and Virgelle Ferry.	Five corridors with defined boundaries (BLM land within 1/2 mile of the centerline): Highway 191, Secondary Highway 236, McClelland /Stafford Ferry, DY Trail/Power Plant, and Klabzuba.			Five corridors with defined boundaries (BLM land within 1/4 mile of the centerline): Highway 191, Secondary Highway 236, McClelland/ Stafford Ferry, DY Trail/Power Plant, and Klabzuba.	Four corridors with defined boundaries (BLM land within 1/2 mile of the centerline): Highway 191, McClelland/ Stafford Ferry, DY Trail/Power Plant, and Klabzuba. The Secondary Highway 236 corridor on the north side of the Missouri River would be within 1/2 mile of the centerline, and on the south side of the river would include the original and new county roads for a width of about 2 miles until the roads converge at the top of Reed Hill where the width would be reduced to 1 mile.
		Three 1-mile wide corridors cross the Missouri River: Highway 80, Loma and Virgelle Ferry.				Four 1-mile wide corridors cross the Missouri River: Highway 80, Loma, Virgelle Ferry, and Highway 191.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Avoidance Areas	Recreational and scenic sections of the UMNWSR.	Scenic sections of the UMNWSR.				
	Cow Creek ACEC and riparian areas.	Bodmer Landscapes, Cow Creek ACEC, cultural/historic sites, riparian and wetland areas, and areas containing unique geologic formations.				
	Areas containing highly erosive soils (sedimentary Breaks soils).					Areas considered unsuitable due to erosion and slope.
	Stafford and Ervin Ridge WSAs, and Cow Creek WSA (Blaine County).					
Exclusion Areas	Wild sections of the UMNWSR and Woodhawk, Dog Creek, and Antelope Creek WSAs.					
	Cow Creek WSA (Phillips County).	Cow Creek, Stafford, and Ervin Ridge WSAs.				
	WSAs not designated as wilderness and released by Congress managed like adjacent BLM land.		WSAs not designated as wilderness and released by Congress are avoidance areas.	WSAs not designated as wilderness and released by Congress are exclusion areas.		WSAs not designated as wilderness and released by Congress are avoidance areas.
Land Ownership Adjustment	No BLM land identified for disposal.	Eighty acres of BLM land identified for disposal through exchange (exchange for 70 acres of private land).				
Fire Management	State Director's Interim Guidance.	Aggressive fire suppression and limited use of prescribed fire.	Aggressive fire suppression and use of prescribed fire.	Responsiveness with a wide range of available fire management tools and flexibility.	Maximize the natural process with a minimum of intervention.	Responsiveness with a wide range of available fire management tools and flexibility.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Health of the Land and Fire

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*		*Alternative B*		*Alternative C*		*Alternative D*		*Alternative E*		*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*	
Fire Management Unit	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***	***Wildland***	***Prescribed***
Wild and Scenic River	F2	RX2	F1	RX1	F1	RX1	F1	RX2	F2	RX2	F2	RX2
Wilderness Study Areas	F2	RX2	F1	RX2	F2	RX2	F2	RX3	F3	RX3	F2	RX3
North Monument	F2	RX2	F1	RX1	F1	RX2	F2	RX3	F3	RX3	F2	RX3
South Monument	F2	RX2	F1	RX1	F1	RX2	F2	RX3	F3	RX3	F2	RX3
F1 = *Suppress all fires aggressively using all available methods* ***F2 =*** *Appropriate suppression response considering the natural role of fire* ***F3 =*** *Identify areas where wildland fire would be used under prescription*							***RX1 =*** *No prescribed fire* ***RX2 =*** *Prescribed fire based on public safety and resources* ***RX3 =*** *Prescribed fire based on the natural role of fire*					
Wild & Scenic Rivers (Cow Creek, Eagle Creek and Dog Creek)	No recommendation on suitability.		Three eligible streams are non-suitable.						Three eligible streams are suitable.		Three eligible streams are non-suitable.	

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Recreation						
Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)	Four existing RMAs: South Phillips, Judith, North Missouri Breaks, and Upper Missouri River.	Four existing RMAs consolidated into 2: Upper Missouri River and Uplands.				
Fees	Continue with the fee for overnight camping at James Kipp Recreation Area (currently $12 per vehicle).	Discontinue the fee at James Kipp Recreation Area and no additional fee sites.	Fee for overnight camping in developed recreation sites (Level 1).	Fee for overnight camping in developed recreation sites (Level 1) and to boat/camp on the Missouri River.		
						Fee for use of some existing structures (cabins and corrals).
	Fees used for site maintenance and visitor services improvements.		Fees collected for camping used for site maintenance and visitor services improvements.			
				Fees to boat the Missouri River to cover management costs. Fees also used to support county emergency services and to purchase short-term campsite easements or leases from willing private landowners.		
			After the RMP is completed, with public input, develop a business plan to determine the fee amounts charged.			
Coordination with Gateway Communities	Encourage private sector initiatives to develop visitor opportunities.	Partner with gateway communities or provide a staffed site for visitor information.			Provide visitor information to local communities.	Encourage and sustain collaborative partnerships, volunteers and citizen-centered public service. Partner with gateway communities to provide visitor information.
Research, Collection, and	Archaeological and historical investigations and paleontological research allowed.				Archaeological and historical	Archaeological and historical

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Special Event Activities					investigations (except for 106 permits) and paleontological research not allowed.	investigations and paleontological research allowed.
	Personal collection of plant material allowed.		Personal collection of plant material allowed in specified areas.		Personal collection of plant material prohibited.	Personal collection of plant material allowed.
	Personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood allowed.	Personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood allowed in identified areas.			Personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood prohibited.	Personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood allowed except in the Cow Creek ACEC, Cow Creek WSA, and Dog Creek WSA .
	Use of metal detectors by permit only.	Use of metal detectors authorized in certain areas. By permit only in other areas.			Use of metal detectors prohibited.	Use of metal detectors by permit only.
	SRPs required for all special activities. Large group events authorized subject to restrictions.		May limit the size of a group or specific activities. Large group events authorized on a case-by-case basis.		Large group events not allowed.	May limit the size of a group or specific activities. Large group events authorized on a case-by-case basis.
Recreation Activities in Sensitive Wildlife Habitat	Personal collection of shed antlers (horn hunting) allowed. A seasonal restriction may apply.		Personal collection of shed antlers (horn hunting) allowed from April 1 to Nov. 30.	Personal collection of shed antlers (horn hunting) allowed from May 16 to Nov. 30.	Personal collection of shed antlers (horn hunting) not allowed.	Personal collection of shed antlers (horn hunting) allowed.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	Camping on islands discouraged from April 1 to July 31.	Camping on islands allowed.		Camping on islands not allowed from April 1 to July 31.	Camping on islands not allowed.	Camping on islands not allowed from April 1 to July 31.
Interpretive Sites (Cultural and Geological)	Interpretation on a case-by-case basis.	Interpretation with signs, exhibits and trails.	Small, low-key interpretive signs that blend in with the surroundings. Simple markers at some sites. Portable interpretation available.		Interpretation at sites not provided.	Small, low-key interpretive signs that blend in with the surroundings. Simple markers at some sites. Portable interpretation available.
Upper Missouri River SRMA						
Special Recreation Use Permits (SRPs)	SRPs limited to 23.	SRPs not limited.	SRPs limited to 30.		SRPs not limited but user days limited based on an allocation system.	SRPs limited to 23 for commercial recreational use.
Opportunities for Boaters	The number of boaters not limited.		Standards and indicators used to manage visitor use: when reached or exceeded, actions taken to reduce impacts without limiting the number of boaters.		Develop and implement an allocation system upon completion of the RMP.	Standards and indicators used to manage visitor use: when reached or exceeded or when necessary, actions taken to reduce impacts without limiting the number of boaters.
				If necessary, implement an allocation system.		
	Groups larger than 50 require an SRP.	No restriction on group size.	From June 15 to Aug. 1, groups larger than 20 could launch at Coal Banks or Judith Landing on Wed., Thurs. and Fri.	Groups larger than 30 require an SRP.	Groups larger than 16 require an SRP.	From June 15 to Aug. 1 at Coal Banks and Judith Landing, groups larger than 20 people could only launch on Wednesday, Thursday

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						or Friday. Groups larger than 30 require an SRP.
Camping Facilities						
Camping	Recreation facilities and campsites include five Level 1 sites, four Level 2 sites, and twelve Level 3 sites.	Additional Level 1, 2 and 3 sites provided as needed to address use demands or resolve visitor use issues.	Additional Level 1 sites only in the recreation segments of the UMNWSR. Improvements to Level 1 and 2 sites to address visitor use issues. Additional Level 2 sites between Fort Benton and Judith Landing as necessary. Additional Level 3 sites as needed.	No additional Level 1 sites. Improvements to existing Level 1 and 2 sites to address visitor use issues. Additional Level 2 sites only in the recreation segments of the UMNWSR. Additional Level 3 sites as needed.	Recreation facilities and campsites remain at the current number and location.	Additional Level 1 sites only in the recreation segments of the UMNWSR. Improvements to Level 1 and 2 sites to address visitor use issues. Additional Level 2 sites between Fort Benton and Judith Landing as necessary. Additional Level 3 sites as needed.
		Agreements with willing private landowners to develop alternative campsites.				If the opportunity is available, purchase short-term easements or leases from willing private landowners for alternative or additional campsites.
Length of Stay at One Campsite	14-night limit.		From June 15 to Aug. 1, a 2-night limit at Level 2 sites. 14-night limit at other sites.		From June 15 to Aug. 1, a 2-night limit at Level 2 and 3 sites. 14-night limit at other sites.	From June 15 to Aug. 1, a 2-night limit at Level 2 sites. 14-night limit at other sites.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Camp Stoves, Fire Pans, or Fire Mats at Level 4 Opportunities	Camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats not required.		Camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats required.			
Signing	Level 1 sites contain a full range of signs as necessary to provide for safety. International signs to mark Level 2 and 3 sites.	Signs as necessary at all levels of facility development (Levels 1-4) and not necessarily associated with a developed site.	Signs in Level 1 sites as needed to safely direct traffic and provide information. Signs to identify Level 1, 2 and 3 sites.	Signs in Level 1 sites commensurate with surroundings and development. Signs as necessary at Level 2 sites. No other signs.	Signs limited to Level 1 sites commensurate with surroundings and development. No other signs.	Signs in Level 1 sites as needed to safely direct traffic and provide information. Signs to identify Level 1, 2 and 3 sites.
Use of Motorized Watercraft on the Missouri River						
Fort Benton to Pilot Rock (River Mile 0 to 52 – Recreation Segment)	Open.	Open.	Open, except personal watercraft and floatplanes only allowed on river miles 0 to 3.	Open, except personal watercraft not allowed from June 15 to Sept. 15 and floatplanes only allowed on river miles 0 to 3.	No motorized watercraft.	Open, except personal watercraft and floatplanes only allowed on river miles 0 to 3.
Pilot Rock to Deadman Rapids (River Mile 52 to 84.5 – Wild and Scenic Segment)	Seasonal restriction: Sat. before Memorial Day through the Sun. after Labor Day, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Open	Seasonal restriction: June 15 to Sept. 15, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Seasonal restriction: May 1 to Dec. 1, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	No motorized watercraft.	Seasonal restriction: June 15 to Sept. 15, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.
			No personal watercraft or floatplanes yearlong.			
Deadman Rapids to Holmes Council Island (River Mile 84.5 to 92.5 – Recreation	Open.	Open.	Open, except no personal watercraft yearlong and floatplanes only allowed from Sept. 16 to June 4.	Open, except personal watercraft not allowed from June 15 to Sept. 15 and floatplanes not allowed yearlong.	No motorized watercraft.	Open, except no personal watercraft or floatplanes yearlong.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Segment)						
Holmes Council Island to Fred Robinson Bridge (River Mile 92.5 to 149 - Wild and Scenic Segment)	Seasonal restriction: Sat. before Memorial Day through the Sun. after Labor Day, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Open.	Seasonal restriction: June 15 to Sept. 15, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Seasonal restriction: June 15 to Sept. 15, no motorized watercraft; Sept. 16 to Dec. 1, downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	No motorized watercraft.	Motorized watercraft travel downstream at a no-wake speed allowed on Thursdays through Saturdays from June 15 to Sept. 15. Motorized watercraft travel not allowed on Sundays through Wednesdays from June 15 to Sept. 15.
			No personal watercraft or floatplanes yearlong.			
Administrative Use of Motorized Watercraft on the Missouri River	Administrative use not restricted.		Designate days when agencies use upstream travel (avoid peak use days).	BLM (and special use authorizations) follow no-wake downstream travel restrictions.	Agency motorized watercraft (and special use authorizations) follow the same restrictions as public.	Administrative use allowed during the seasonal restrictions. Initiate a cooperative effort among agencies operating on the Missouri River to achieve uniform standard operating procedures to minimize impacts to boaters.
			Administrative use agreements outline guidelines for motorized use.			
			Livestock grazing permittees allowed upstream travel to administer a grazing permit with prior notification (verbal or letter).			

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Uplands SRMA						
Special Recreation Use Permits						
Commercial ***Hunting***	No limit on the number of SRPs.		Limit the number of SRPs to the current level (14).	No limit on the number of SRPs.		No limit on the number of SRPs. An adaptive management strategy would be developed that is responsive to changing visitor use trends, use patterns, and resource conditions.
	Permits assigned to specific areas (requested or assigned hunting area).	Permits assigned to the entire Monument.		Permits assigned to areas with limited public access.	Permits assigned to areas with public access.	Permits assigned to existing use areas (2004).
Commercial Motorized Tours	Tours allowed on all roads.	Tours restricted to local and collector roads and some resource roads.	Tours restricted to local and collector roads.	Tours limited to 2 vehicles per operator per day on local, collector and some resource roads.	Tours not allowed.	Tours limited to 2 vehicles per operator per day on local, collector and some resource roads.
Camping Facilities						
Camping	In some areas, do not construct developed or undeveloped sites unless a partnership is realized through local service organizations.	Level 1 and 2 sites confined to fishing reservoirs, overlooks, historic sites, etc.	Level 1 sites at the beginning of public access roads. Level 2 sites (park and explore) where people walk from parking areas.	Level 1 sites not allowed. Level 2 sites only on main artery roads.	Level 1 and 2 sites not allowed.	Level 1 sites at the beginning of public access roads. Level 2 sites (park and explore) where people walk from parking areas.
		Level 3 sites (pullouts) adjacent to the road. Fire rings are the only improvement.			Level 3 sites not allowed.	Level 3 sites (pull-outs) adjacent to a

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						road. Fire rings the only improvement.
Camp Stoves, Fire Pans, or Fire Mats at Level 4 Opportunities	Camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats not required.		Camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats required.			Encourage the use of camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats.
Signs	Level 1 sites contain a full range of signs as necessary to provide for safety. International signs to mark Level 2 and 3 sites.	Signs as necessary at all levels of facility development (Levels 1-4) and not necessarily associated with a developed site.	Signs in Level 1 sites as needed to safely direct traffic and provide information. Signs to identify campsites of minimum size.	Signs in Level 1 sites commensurate with surroundings and development. Signs as necessary at Level 2 sites. No other signs except for transportation.	Signs limited to Level 1 sites commensurate with surroundings and development. No other signs.	Signs in Level 1 sites commensurate with surroundings and development. Signs as necessary at Level 2 sites. No other signs except for transportation.

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Natural Gas Exploration and Development

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Oil and Gas Stipulations and Conditions of Approval (see Table 2.22)						
Natural Gas Operations						
Seismic	Seismic operations consistent with the State Director's Interim Guidance.		Vehicle activity restricted to designated roads. Exceptions on a case-by-case basis.	Helicopter-supported seismic activities in specific areas. Gravitation methods on designated roads.		Gravity-type surveys allowed on road and only by foot off-road. Vibroseis-type vehicles required to stay on existing approved roads. If the existing road system is not adequate to conduct a survey, shallow drill holes (5 to 15 foot shot holes) would be allowed for the remaining part of the survey using helicopter and ground support (via foot).
Spacing Requirements	One well per half section in the Leroy Gas Field and 1 well per section in the Sawtooth Mountain Gas Field. Exceptions apply.	No more than 4 well locations/sites per section.	One well per half section in the Leroy Gas Field and 1 well per section in the Sawtooth Mountain Gas Field. Exceptions apply.	One well per half section in the Leroy Gas Field and 1 well per section in the Sawtooth Mountain Gas Field. Exceptions do not apply.	Spacing reduced in specific areas from 2 wells per section to 1 well per section.	One well per half section in the Leroy Gas Field and 1 well per section in the Sawtooth Mountain Gas Field. Increased well densities up to 1 well site per quarter

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Natural Gas Exploration and Development

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						section, subject to siting criteria.
Drilling Operations	Follow standard operating procedures.	Minimal amount of surface disturbance permitted with the use of BMPs. Confine the operation to an acceptable (safe) area/space. Use low impact drilling technology, develop multiple wells from one location, or stay away from problem areas. This includes access to a drilling site.				
General Production Facilities and Equipment	Follow standard operating procedures.	Wildlife mitigation and BMPs on all gas compressors for noise control.				
		Compression facilities requiring more than 1/10 acre not allowed. Pumping units allowed provided noise is at an acceptable level.				Large gas compressors or pumping units located outside the Monument if possible. If located in the Monument, follow BMPs.
Administrative Access on Existing and New Resource Roads	Access allowed.		Travel restricted to the minimal vehicle needed for the job. Timing restrictions may apply.			
Pipelines	Follow standard operating procedures.		Restricted to existing or least intrusive disturbance.	Restricted to existing disturbance or access roads.		Restricted to existing or least intrusive disturbance.
Water Disposal	Follow standard operating procedures.	Pits sized according to water production with berms (wildlife escape ramps where necessary). Two trips per month allowed to transport water off site; exceptions on a case-by-case basis.		Pits sized according to water production with no berms (wildlife escape ramps required). Each well is limited to no more than 5 barrels of water per day. No water transported via tanker.		Pits sized according to water production with berms (wildlife escape ramps and/or netting where necessary). Two trips per month

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Natural Gas Exploration and Development

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						allowed to transport water off site; exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
		Option to dispose of the water via pipeline, disposal pits including tanks, or in a water disposal well.				

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Access						
Public Access	Easements considered only with willing sellers.					
	Public access easements for administrative use and for the public.	Public access easements where no legal access exists or where additional access is needed.	Public access easements where no legal access exists.	No public access easements.		Public access easements where no legal access exists or where additional access is needed.
	Cooperate with agencies and landowners to maintain access (block management or access agreements).			Cooperate with agencies and landowners to improve access.		Cooperate with agencies and landowners to maintain access (block management or access agreements).
Public Access on New Resource Roads Used for Natural Gas Operations	Open for public travel.		Public travel restricted to specified areas. No additional access in the Ervin Ridge WSA.	Public travel restricted in sensitive areas.	Closed for public travel.	Closed for public travel unless to meet management objectives.
Access for Individuals with Disabilities	Individuals with disabilities can request a permit to travel on closed roads.					
		Closed roads open for individuals with disabilities.		Identify closed roads (access) for individuals with disabilities, case-by-case basis.		If needed, identify closed roads (access) for individuals with disabilities.
BLM Road System						
BLM Roads to State and Private	BLM roads to state and private land open	BLM roads to state and private land open for administrative and private land access. These roads also open for public travel unless closed to meet Monument objectives.				BLM roads providing

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Land	for administrative, private landowner, and public travel.					motorized access to the boundary of private land open for public, private landowner and administrative travel with the exception of two roads (one road is impassable and the other road is currently limited to administrative access).
BLM Roads (see Table 2.26 for overall road system criteria)	Roads open unless currently restricted.	Roads evaluated based on erosion, identified wildlife habitat, and the need for the road.	Roads open associated with resource uses; recreation sites and areas, gas wells, range improvements, backcountry airstrips, etc.	Roads open if they serve a specific purpose (recreation sites, gas wells, range improvements, etc.). Most parallel and spur roads closed.	Collector and local roads open, but most resource roads closed.	Roads open associated with resource uses; recreation sites and areas, gas wells, range improvements, backcountry airstrips, etc.
Open Yearlong	524 miles	477 miles	439 miles	292 miles	103 miles	293 miles
Open Seasonally	68 miles	96 miles	95 miles	44 miles	4 miles	111 miles
Closed	13 miles	32 miles	71 miles	269 miles	498 miles	201 miles
Type of Motorized and Mechanized Use on Roads	Open roads available to motorized and mechanized use.	Open roads available to motorized and mechanized use. Some closed roads could be designated for a mechanized (e.g., mountain bike) trail.		Some roads could be limited to specific motorized and/or mechanized use.		Open roads available to motorized and mechanized use consistent with

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						management objectives. Some closed roads could be designated as a mechanized trail through site-specific planning (e.g., mtn bike).
Road Classification and Maintenance						
Classification						
Collector	15 miles	15 miles	15 miles	15 miles	15 miles	21 miles
Local	34 miles	34 miles	34 miles	34 miles	34 miles	41 miles
	556 miles	556 miles	556 miles	556 miles	556 miles	543 miles
Maintenance						
Level 1 – Min	13 miles	32 miles	71 miles	269 miles	498 miles	201 miles
Level 2	519 miles	499 miles	461 miles	263 miles	38 miles	340 miles
Level 3	67 miles	67 miles	66 miles	66 miles	62 miles	56 miles
Level 4	7 miles	7 miles	7 miles	7 miles	7 miles	8 miles
Level 5 - Max	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles
		Cattleguards installed as needed or where appropriate.				Cattleguards installed as needed or where appropriate.
		Closed roads allowed to reclaim naturally.	Closed roads allowed to reclaim naturally and on selected sections reclamation may include ripping, scarifying, and	Closed roads reclaimed with planned/ designed reclamation. On selected sections of the closed road reclamation may include ripping, scarifying, and seeding.		Closed roads allowed to reclaim naturally and on selected sections reclamation may include ripping,

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
			seeding.			scarifying, and seeding.
Exceptions						
Administrative Use Off Road and on Closed Roads	Administrative use off road and on closed roads by BLM and other agencies allowed.				Administrative use on closed roads by BLM and other agencies. No off-road travel.	Administrative use off road and on closed roads by BLM and other agencies.
	Administrative use off road and on closed roads by lessees and permittees limited to activities necessary to administer a lease or permit.			Lessees and permittees allowed seasonal use provisions as needed to administer a lease or permit.	Permission provided on a case-by-case basis for lessees and permittees to drive off road and on closed roads to administer a lease or permit.	Administrative use off road and on closed roads by lessees and permittees limited to activities necessary to administer a lease or permit.
Game Retrieval		Big game retrieval allowed on some identified closed roads.	Big game retrieval allowed on identified closed roads from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for 3 hours after the legal hunting time.	Big game retrieval allowed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on specific designated closed roads.	Big game retrieval not allowed on closed roads.	Big game retrieval allowed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on specific designated seasonally closed roads.
	Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts allowed off road, except in the WSAs.				Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts allowed on closed roads. Game carts not allowed off road.	Non-motorized/ non-mechanized game carts allowed off road, except in the WSAs.
	Game carts not allowed off road in the WSAs.					

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Camping Along Roads	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are not allowed to pull off designated routes for camping.	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are allowed to pull off designated routes no more than 300 feet for camping.	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are allowed to pull off designated routes no more than 150 feet for camping.	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are allowed to pull off designated routes no more than 10 feet for camping.	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are not allowed to pull off designated routes for camping.	Motorized or mechanized vehicles are allowed to pull off designated routes no more than 50 feet for parking. In WSAs, motorized or mechanized vehicles are not allowed to pull off designated routes for parking.
Signs	Existing signs maintained. New signs where needed.	Existing signs maintained. New signs to enhance safety or prevent resource damage.			New or existing traffic control and directional signs maintained.	Existing signs maintained. New signs to enhance safety or prevent resource damage.
		Open roads signed, closed roads only signed if necessary.		Open and closed roads signed.	Open and closed roads not signed.	Open roads signed, closed roads only signed if necessary.
Aviation						
Backcountry Airstrips	Ten airstrips open yearlong.		Seven airstrips: 4 open yearlong and 3 open seasonally.	Six airstrips: 2 open yearlong and 4 open seasonally.	No airstrips.	Six airstrips: 5 open yearlong and 1 open seasonally.
Commercial Scenic Flight Landings	Commercial scenic aircraft landings allowed.		Commercial scenic aircraft landings only on authorized	Commercial scenic aircraft landings only on specific	Commercial scenic aircraft landings not allowed.	Commercial scenic aircraft landings only on specific

Table 2.41 Summary Comparison of Alternatives
Access and Transportation

Topic	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternative E*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
			airstrips. Seasonal restrictions may apply.	authorized airstrips. Seasonal restrictions may apply.		authorized backcountry airstrips. Seasonal restrictions may apply.

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Air Quality	Natural gas operations and smoke from wildland and/or prescribed fires could cause air quality to deteriorate in the local area. Dust generation from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads would add to the particulates contributed by natural gas operations and smoke. These effects are short-term and normally quickly dispersed by winds.					
Cultural Resources	Treatment of invasive and noxious weeds would restore and/or retain natural settings that contribute to the overall integrity of cultural resources.					
	With the fewest amount of acres designated VRM Class I this would offer the least protection to cultural resources. No rights-of-way restrictions expose more cultural resources to possible effects from future developments. By not disposing of any public domain lands no tribal treaty rights would be reduced or limited.	Increased VRM I designations offer more protection than Alternative A. Rights-of-way restrictions limit the areas that could be physically and visually impacted, restricting areas of potential effects. The 80-acre tract disposal could limit or reduce the area within which tribal treaty rights could be exercised.				
	Not requiring or encouraging the use of camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats for dispersed camping (level 4 opportunities) has the least potential to protect documented or unidentified prehistoric sites.		Requiring camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats for dispersed camping (Level 4 opportunities) has the greatest potential to protect documented or unidentified prehistoric sites.			Encouraging the use of camp stoves, fire pans or fire mats for dispersed camping (Level 4 opportunities) has the potential to protect documented or

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
						unidentified prehistoric sites, but not as much as Alternatives C, D, and E.
	Natural processes would impact archaeological and historical sites. These sites may also be subject to human-induced impacts such as vandalism and damage from over-visitation. Natural gas exploration would have less potential to affect cultural resources than Alternative B.	May have an increase in the impacts to cultural properties and the area's setting from increased natural gas exploration. Fewer effects from roads than Alternative A. Natural gas exploration and development would occur over most of the existing leased area, with greatest potential to affect cultural resources.	Similar to Alternative A, but with fewer human-induced impacts from roads. Natural gas exploration would have less potential to affect cultural resources than Alternative A or B.	Similar to Alternative A, but with fewer human-induced impacts from roads. Natural gas exploration would have about half the potential to affect cultural resources than Alternative B.	May cause the loss of the Monument's cultural resources from further field research and knowledge of the historic associations. Fewest effects from roads with the greatest amount of road miles decommissioned. Least amount of potential effects from natural gas exploration.	Similar to Alternative A, but with fewer human-induced impacts from roads. Fewer road effects than Alternatives A through D. Fewer potential effects from natural gas exploration than Alternatives A or B.
Fish and Wildlife	Management would improve habitat for sage-grouse, prairie dogs, many designated sensitive species and big game.					
Mitigation	*Wildlife Habitat within Areas of Proposed Mitigation (acres)*					
Sage-Grouse						
Lek	0	141	141	141	141	141
Nesting Area	Unknown	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Winter Habitat	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Prairie Dogs	3,932	500	500	3,932	3,932	3,932
Sensitive Species	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bald Eagle	37	436	133	133	133	133

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Mule Deer	362,000	362,000	362,000	362,000	362,000	362,000
Elk	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Antelope	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Bighorn Sheep						
Distribution	Unknown	Unknown	135,000	135,000	135,000	135,000
Lambing Areas	Unknown	49,000	49,000	49,000	103,366	49,000
Natural Gas	Big game, sage-grouse and other wildlife species could be impacted by existing and potential natural gas development and infrastructure.					
	Wildlife Habitat within Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations or Proposed Conditions of Approval (acres)					
Sage-Grouse					It is reasonably	
Lek	0	31	31	31	foreseeable no new	31
Nesting Area	Unknown	5,374	5,374	5,374	natural gas wells	5,374
Winter Habitat	955	1,774	1,774	1,774	would be drilled.	1,774
Prairie Dogs	72	72	72	Unknown		Unknown
Sensitive Species	3	Unknown	535	2,188		Unknown
Mule Deer	10,328	42,805	42,805	42,805		42,805
Elk	6,779	30,102	30,102	30,102		30,102
Antelope	3,804	10,843	10,843	10,843		10,843
Bighorn Sheep						
Distribution	14,244	14,244	14,244	14,244		14,244
Lambing Areas	6,563	6,563	6,563	13,550		6,563
Transportation	Big game, sage-grouse, and other wildlife species could be impacted by the use of roads in important wildlife habitat.					
	Wildlife Habitat within 1/4 mile of BLM Roads Open Yearlong and Seasonally (acres)					
Elk	105,238	104,550	98,652	66,260	17,114	80,348
Mule Deer	153,991	150,119	141,378	92,976	25,646	112,178
Antelope	21,758	21,729	20,558	15,267	2,206	16,661
Bighorn Sheep						
Distribution	43,697	43,091	38,772	26,248	10,131	31,323
Lambing Areas	14,066	13,822	11,242	7,086	2,179	9,074
Sage-Grouse						
Winter Habitat	7,050	7,050	6,465	5,444	1,194	6,028
Prairie Dog Towns	74	103	103	74	74	74

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Geology and Paleontology	The flexibility to gather and interpret more information about geologic and paleontologic resources in the Monument would prevent the loss of this information due to erosion.				The opportunity to develop information about geologic and paleontologic resources would be eliminated. Some information would be lost as sites erode.	The impacts would be the same as Alternatives A through D.
Soils	Surface-disturbing activities could contribute to increased soil compaction, surface runoff and a subsequent increase in soil erosion and sedimentation. Guidance from BMPs, Standards for Rangeland Health and design standards would be followed to minimize and mitigate soil impacts.					
	Within the next 15 to 20 years, 35 natural gas wells could be drilled, which would result in 70 acres of soil disturbances. Interim reclamation would reduce this to 10 acres.	Within the next 15 to 20 years, 44 natural gas wells could be drilled, which would result in 103 acres of soil disturbances. Interim reclamation would reduce this to 14 acres.	Within the next 15 to 20 years, 28 natural gas wells could be drilled, which would result in 55 acres of soil disturbances. Interim reclamation would reduce this to 7 acres.	Within the next 15 to 20 years, 13 natural gas wells could be drilled, which would result in 15 acres of soil disturbances. Interim reclamation would reduce this to 2 acres.	Overall, this alternative would allow the fewest soil impacts from surface-disturbing activities. No additional natural gas wells would be drilled.	Within the next 15 to 20 years, 34 natural gas wells could be drilled, which would result in 71 acres of soil disturbances. Interim reclamation would reduce this to 10 acres.
Vegetation – Native Plants	Localized vegetation disturbances would occur as a function of gas production activity, roads and recreation activities. These activities would likely impact less than 1,000 acres (in terms of total vegetation removal or damage to the health of plants).	Conversion of some non-native vegetation communities to native could occur. Mitigation measures would be adequate to ensure the impacts to vegetation are minimal (less than 1,000 acres).	Specific actions to manage sage-grouse habitat by conserving native vegetation communities would facilitate restoration in some native communities (small in acreage).		Minimizing roads and surface-disturbing activities would create minimum impacts to vegetation. Allowing prairie dogs to expand without controls could jeopardize vegetation in the localized area of the prairie dog town.	Localized vegetation disturbances would occur as a function of gas production activity, roads and recreation activities. These activities would likely impact less than 1,000 acres.

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Vegetation – Riparian	The construction and operation of dams on the Missouri River has a dramatic impact on the flow regime of the river and has reduced the regeneration of woody riparian species, especially cottonwoods and willows. Livestock grazing has also impacted riparian regeneration, but can be partially mitigated by the management prescriptions contained in the Decisions Common to All Alternatives. The impacts to riparian regeneration from dams and livestock grazing would persist in both the short and long terms. Campers would continue to degrade riparian resources in small, localized areas at campsites. This degradation would persist into the long term. Planting native species in campgrounds would eventually result in more overstory species like cottonwood and green ash. Understory species, especially native shrubs and grasses, would continue to decline due to human impacts. Once the shrub understory has been eliminated, an understory dominated by introduced herbaceous species persists. The prospect of the site returning to a natural shrub-dominated understory is lost.					
Vegetation – Noxious and Invasive Plants	The management of invasive and noxious plants would continue as prescribed by the 2001 Guidelines for Integrated Weed Management. Invasive and noxious plants would be treated aggressively using integrated management principles as resources allow. This should result in a significant decline in the amount and distribution of invasive and noxious plant populations in the next 10 to 20 years. Other activities and resource uses would continue the risk of introducing and moving invasive and noxious plant material to and within the Monument. These activities are unavoidable, but the risk could be reduced through proper mitigation and education of public land users. New introductions, when found, would be aggressively managed.		The risk of new introductions of invasive and noxious plants and movement within the Monument would be mitigated to the extent possible. Other than natural causes such as wildlife, flooding, and ice scour, invasive species would have limited opportunity to colonize. Management practices may be limited on the Missouri River that are needed to continue aggressive treatment of infestations not accessible by land. These infestations could grow unchecked in some areas.			The overall impacts would be similar to Alternatives A and B, except for natural gas operations. Limiting surface-disturbing seismic activities and using low impact drilling would reduce the potential introduction and spread of invasive and noxious plants.
Visual Resources	Potential for minor visual impacts on 61,700 acres of VRM Class I of which 2% could be related to natural gas activity.	Potential for minor visual impacts on 111,480 acres of VRM Class I of which 1% could be related to natural gas activity.	Potential for minor visual impacts on 62,000 acres of VRM Class I of which 3% could be related to natural gas activity.	Potential for minor visual impacts on 111,480 acres of VRM Class I of which 3% could be related to natural gas activity.	Potential for minor or no visual impacts on 111,480 acres of VRM Class I and 263,520 acres of VRM Class II.	Potential for minor or no visual impacts on 111,480 acres of VRM Class I of which 3% could be related to natural gas activity.

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*		*Alternative B*		*Alternative C*		*Alternative D*		*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*		*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*	
	Potential visual impacts on 313,300 acres of VRM Class II, III and IV of which 13% could be related to natural gas activity.		Potential visual impacts on 263,520 acres of VRM Class II, III and IV of which 16% could be related to natural gas activity.		Potential visual impacts on 313,000 acres of VRM Class II, III and IV of which 15% could be related to natural gas activity.		Potential visual impacts on 263,520 acres of VRM Class II of which 15% could be related to natural gas activity.				Potential visual impacts on 263,520 acres of VRM Class II, III and IV of which 15% could be related to natural gas activity.	
VRM Class	*Visual Resource Management Classes in the Monument*											
	Acres	*%*	*Acres*	*%*	*Acres*	*%*	*Acres*	*%*	*Acres*	*%*	*Acres*	*%*
Class I	61,700	16	111,480	30	62,000	17	111,480	30	111,480	30	111,480	30
Class II	118,800	32	44,520	12	217,000	58	263,520	70	263,520	70	161,560	43
Class III	8,200	2	105,000	28	17,500	5	0	0	0	0	24,770	7
Class IV	186,300	50	114,000	30	78,500	21	0	0	0	0	77,190	20
VRM Class and Oil and Gas Leases	*Visual Resource Management Classes within Existing Oil and Gas Leases (acres)*											
Class I	1,478		1,478		2,936		2,936		2,936		2,936	
Class II	20,259		20,259		32,575		39,869		39,869		32,575	
Class III	0		0		7,294		0		0		4,040	
Class IV	21,068		21,068		0		0		0		3,254	
VRM Class and Natural Gas Wells	*Reasonable Foreseeable Natural Gas Wells within Visual Resource Management Classes (number)*											
Class I	0		1		1		0		0		0	
Class II	20		23		21		13		0		24	
Class III	0		0		6		0		0		3	
Class IV	15		20		0		0		0		7	
Water	Increased potential for large, catastrophic fires; making them the least attractive for protecting water resources. The impacts, if these fires occur, could degrade water quality, infiltration and ground water recharge for the short term.				A gradual improvement in watershed conditions in the long term. Implementation of the completed watershed plans would have both short and long-term positive impacts to water resources.							

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Forest Resources	The impacts would be very similar for all of these alternatives. Forest products sales would be incidental and so scattered that they would be relatively insignificant, unless associated with a much larger project adjoining another ownership.				No forest treatments would increase the possibility of a stand-replacing event such as wildland fire.	The impacts would be the same as Alternatives A through D.
Lands and Realty	The lack of defined corridors across Monument lands could lead to various rights-of-way approaching the designated corridors on the Missouri River from many different directions and then converging where they cross the river.	Five designated utility and transportation corridors would confine future rights-of-way to areas that already contain visual intrusions such as roads, as opposed to crossing the Monument from diverse directions and converging as they approach the designated corridors on the River. The remaining three designated corridors at Fort Benton, Loma and Virgelle apply only to crossing the Missouri River. (18,550 acres)			Five designated utility and transportation corridors would confine future rights-of-way to areas that already contain visual intrusions such as roads, as opposed to crossing the Monument from diverse directions and converging as they approach the designated corridors on the river. The remaining three designated corridors at Fort Benton, Loma and Virgelle apply only to crossing the Missouri River (9,040 acres).	Four designated utility and transportation corridors would confine future rights-of-way to areas that already contain visual intrusions such as roads, as opposed to crossing the Monument from diverse directions and converging as they approach the designated corridors on the river. The remaining four designated corridors at Fort Benton, Loma, Virgelle and Highway 191 apply only to crossing the Missouri River (17,790 acres).
	No lands are identified for disposal and there	Disposal of 80 acres of BLM land would result in the loss of less than five acres of breaks topography. The land may be converted to hay or some other crop; it may also continue to be used as grazing land. There would be a loss of native grasses, sagebrush and domestic (alfalfa) vegetation.				

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	would be no impact.	Acquisition of 71.12 private acres would bring 30 to 40 acres of breaks topography under public ownership. The public would also gain native grasses and riparian vegetation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, potential campsites for River recreationists, and 1/2 mile of Missouri River frontage.				
	Right-of-way applicants may need to relocate their proposed projects and may incur more expense in order to avoid slopes over 30%, or over 20% if they contain extremely erosive or slumping soils.	Right-of-way applicants may see their proposed projects delayed, and/or become less cost effective when they are located on slopes exceeding 30%.	Right-of-way applicants may see their proposed projects delayed, and/or become less cost effective when they are located on slopes exceeding 30% or slopes exceeding 20% which contain extremely erosive or slumping soils. Right-of-way applicants' proposals may be rejected when located on slopes of 40% or greater.		There would be no impacts under this alternative.	Right-of-way applicants may see their proposed projects delayed, and/or become less cost effective when they are located on slopes exceeding 30% or slopes exceeding 20% which contain extremely erosive or slumping soils.
Livestock Grazing	Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management apply under all Alternatives.					
	Management of habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife species could cause some inconvenience to livestock grazing management.	Management of habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife species could cause some inconvenience to livestock grazing. Recreational activities could conflict with livestock grazing and other uses in localized areas, but would not be significant on the scale of the Monument overall. Establishment of resource reserve allotments would add flexibility to livestock grazing management.			Management of wildlife habitat could reduce available forage on select allotments. Without resource reserve allotments the flexibility in grazing activities would not be available and this could have the impact of short-term reductions that could not be	The establishment of resource reserve allotments would allow added flexibility in livestock grazing management. Management emphasis for wildlife habitat and recreation would have mostly localized, incon-venience-type impacts to livestock grazing management.

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
					mitigated for an individual operator.	
Minerals – Oil and Gas	Natural gas exploration and development would occur over most of the existing leased area.	Natural gas exploration and development would occur over most of the leased area.	Natural gas exploration and development would occur over much of the leased area, but less than Alternative A.	Natural gas exploration and development would be almost half of the activity allowed under Alternative B.	Most restrictive level for natural gas exploration and development under Alternatives E and E_{NL}.	Natural gas production could occur over much of the leased area, but less than Alternatives A and B.
Stipulations or Conditions	*Oil and Gas Leases Affected by the Stipulations or Proposed Conditions of Approval (acres)*					
Sage-Grouse					No impacts, as no	
Lek	31	31	31	31	new natural gas	31
Nesting Area	5,374	5,374	5,374	5,374	wells would be	5,374
Winter Habitat	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774	drilled on federal	1,774
Prairie Dogs	72	72	72	72	leases.	72
Sensitive Species	535	0	535	2,188		535
Mule Deer	42,805	42,805	42,805	42,805		42,805
Elk	30,102	30,102	30,102	30,102		30,102
Antelope	10,843	10,843	10,843	10,843		10,843
Bighorn Sheep						
Distribution	14,244	14,244	14,244	14,244		14,244
Lambing Areas	6,563	6,563	6,563	13,550		6,563
Streams/Wetlands	8,921	0	16,510	20,751		8,921
Soils/Slopes						
20% & Severe	14,081	0	14,081	14,081		14,081
30%	7,035	7,035	7,035	7,035		7,035
40%	0	0	3,152	3,152		3,152
VRM Class						
Class I	1,478	1,478	2,338	2,936		2,936
Class II	20,259	20,259	32,986	39,869		32,575
Class III	0	0	4,723	0		4,040
Class IV	21,068	21,068	2,758	0		3,254

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	Reasonable Foreseeable Natural Gas Wells					
	35 wells could be drilled in the Monument along with another 21 wells within 1/2 mile of the Monument on federal leases. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 8.3 BCF of gas could be produced.	44 wells could be drilled in the Monument along with another 23 wells within 1/2 mile of the Monument on federal leases. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 9.8 BCF of gas could be produced.	28 wells could be drilled in the Monument along with another 21 wells within 1/2 mile of the Monument on federal leases. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 7.4 BCF of gas could be produced.	13 wells could be drilled in the Monument along with another 20 wells within 1/2 mile of the Monument on federal leases. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 5.2 BCF of gas could be produced.	No wells would be drilled in the Monument but 18 wells could be drilled on federal leases within 1/2 mile of the Monument. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 3.1 BCF of gas could be produced.	34 wells could be drilled in the Monument along with another 21 wells within 1/2 mile of the Monument on federal leases. With a success rate of 35% an additional estimated 8.2 BCF of gas could be produced.
Recreation	Visitors would enjoy mostly unrestricted opportunities to participate in recreation pursuits.	Visitors would enjoy mostly unrestricted freedom to access recreation opportunities and participate in recreation pursuits.	Visitors would enjoy mostly unrestricted opportunities to participate in recreation pursuits.	Visitors would enjoy mostly unrestricted opportunities to participate in recreation pursuits.	Visitor use opportunities would be restricted under this alternative. An allocation system would be initiated that may possibly reduce the freedom to access the UMNWSR.	Visitors would enjoy mostly unrestricted opportunities to participate in recreation pursuits.
	Visitors would not be subjected to further recreation use fees than currently charged to camp at the James Kipp Recreation Area.	No recreation use fees would be charged in the Monument.	A fee would be charged to camp overnight in developed recreation sites (Level 1 facilities).	A fee would be charged to float the river and camp overnight in developed recreation sites (Level 1 facilities).	A fee would be charged to float the river and camp overnight in developed recreation sites (Level 1 facilities).	A fee would be charged to float the river and camp overnight in developed recreation sites (Level 1 facilities).

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
Recreation Upper Missouri River	*Upper Missouri River*					
	Limiting the number of SRPs would reduce opportunities for additional commercial use but lessens the competition for campsites and conflicts with other boaters.	Issuing unlimited SRPs could increase competition for campsites and conflicts with other boaters.	An additional seven permits could increase competition for campsites and conflicts with other boaters.	An additional seven permits could increase competition for campsites and conflicts with other boaters.	With an allocation system commercial river guiding businesses would have little or no opportunity for growth.	Limiting the number of SRPs would reduce opportunities for additional commercial use but lessens the competition for campsites and conflicts with other boaters.
	Facility development (Level 1, 2, and 3 sites) could detract from the visual quality and primitive setting of the UMNWSR.	Facility development (Level 1, 2, and 3 sites) and signing could detract from the visual quality and primitive setting of the UMNWSR.	Facility development (Level 2 sites) could detract from the visual quality and primitive setting of the UMNWSR.	The primitive nature of the UMNWSR would be protected from the visual impact of additional facility development.	Construction of facilities that may detract from the primitive nature of the UMNWSR would not occur.	Facility development would not detract from the wild and scenic river classification standards, and would ensure boaters have a range of opportunities.
	Motorized use on the river would continue with seasonal restrictions. As use by floaters increases so may conflicts of use.	No restrictions for motorized use on the river (149 miles). There would be unlimited opportunities for access and use by motorized boaters and few opportunities for floaters to experience the	Leaving some sections of the river open (60 miles) for upstream and downstream travel would provide an opportunity for visitors preferring to use motorboats. A seasonal restriction in the White Cliffs	Leaving some sections of the river open (60 miles) for upstream and downstream travel would provide an opportunity for visitors preferring to use motorboats. A seasonal restriction in the	No motorized use of the river (149 miles). The ability of many hunters and anglers to use motorized watercraft to access fishing and hunting opportunities would be eliminated. Opportunities for	Leaving some sections of the river open (60 miles) for upstream and downstream travel would provide an opportunity for visitors preferring to use motorboats. A seasonal restriction in the White Cliffs

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
		primitive nature of the river free from the sight and sound of motorized craft.	section (32.5 miles) would provide boaters an opportunity to experience a more primitive setting during the summer. A seasonal restriction in the lower section of the river (56.5 miles) would provide boaters an opportunity to experience a more primitive setting during the summer. Opportunities for the use of personal watercraft and landing of floatplanes would be greatly diminished.	White Cliffs section (32.5 miles) would provide boaters an opportunity to experience a more primitive setting during the summer and fall. A seasonal restriction in the lower section of the river (56.5 miles) would provide boaters an opportunity to experience a more primitive setting during the summer and fall. Opportunities for the use of personal watercraft and landing of floatplanes would be greatly diminished.	the use of personal watercraft and landing of floatplanes would be eliminated.	section (32.5 miles) would provide boaters an opportunity to experience a more primitive setting during the summer. A seasonal restriction in the lower section of the river (56.5 miles) would provide a recreation opportunity for boaters seeking solitude and primitive experience but motorized use opportunities would decrease during the summer. Opportunities for the use of personal watercraft and landing of floatplanes would be greatly diminished.
Recreation Uplands	*Uplands*					
	With no limit on the number of commercial SRPs issued for hunting in	With no limit on the number of commercial SRPs, the potential for	Limiting the number of commercial SRPs decreases the potential for conflicts	With no limit on the number of commercial SRPs, the potential for	With no limit on the number of commercial SRPs and issuing permits	With no limit on the number of commercial SRPs, the potential for

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*		*Alternative B*		*Alternative C*		*Alternative D*		*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*		*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*	
	the uplands, the potential for conflicts between commercial and public hunters exists.		conflicts of use exists.		of use.		conflicts of use exists, but issuing permits in areas with limited access would reduce the potential.		in areas with public access, the potential for conflicts of use increases.		conflicts of use increases.	
	With additional signing, the primitive nature of the uplands may be visually compromised in some areas.		With additional signing, the primitive nature of the uplands may be visually compromised in some areas.		The primitive nature of the uplands may be visually compromised depending on the level of facility development.		Signing commensurate with the visual surroundings would reduce the potential for visual impairment to the primitive nature.		Limited signing would ensure the visual integrity of the area but it would eliminate the use of signs for information and education.		Signing commensurate with the visual surroundings would reduce the potential for visual impairment to the primitive nature.	
Transportation	524 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 609 BLM road segments).		477 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 551 BLM road segments).		439 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 484 BLM road segments).		292 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 239 BLM road segments).		103 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 84 BLM road segments).		293 miles of BLM roads would be open yearlong for public motorized travel (includes portions of 263 BLM road segments).	
Designated Roads	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*
Open Yearlong	524	87	477	79	439	72	292	48	103	17	293	49
Open Seasonally	68	11	96	16	95	16	44	7	4	1	111	18
Closed	13	2	32	5	71	12	269	45	498	82	201	33
	No. of roads	*%*	*No. of roads*	*%*	*No. of roads*	*%*	*No. of roads*	*%*	*No. of roads*	*%*	*No. of roads*	*%*
Open Yearlong	609	79	551	72	484	63	239	31	84	11	263	34
Open Seasonally	111	15	116	15	98	13	40	5	4	1	80	11
Closed	44	6	97	13	184	24	498	64	672	88	415	55

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*		*Alternative B*		*Alternative C*		*Alternative D*		*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*		*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*	
	BLM Road Maintenance Levels											
Maintenance Levels	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*	*Miles*	*%*
Level 1: Min/Closed	13	2	32	5	71	12	269	44	498	83	201	33
Level 2: Limited	518	86	499	83	461	76	263	44	38	6	340	56
Level 3: High Vol	67	11	67	11	66	11	66	11	62	10	56	10
Level 4: Higher Vol	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	8	1
Fire Management	Approximately 35,000 acres of possible prescribed fire projects.		Prescribed fire projects would depend on ecological need to introduce fire.		The emphasis for prescribed fire would be on reducing hazardous fuel buildup where wildland fire would threaten private and public structures and improvements.		Prescribed fire projects would include the projects proposed in the existing watershed plans and new projects based on fire regime conditions class. Could result in a substantial number of additional prescribed fire projects.		Overall, prescribed fire acres would be similar to Alternative D, less the fire regime conditions class.		Overall, prescribed fire acres would be similar to Alternative D, less the fire regime conditions class.	
Fire Management Unit	Potential Prescribed Fire Projects (acres)											
Wild and Scenic WSAs North Monument South Monument	Approximately 35,000 acres of possible projects.		0 30,000 0 0		Limited 5,200 6,600 8,200		Limited 6,200 to 45,000 5,000 to 100,000 20,000 to 105,000		Less than 10,000 6,200 plus 5,000 plus 20,000 plus		Less than 10,000 6,200 plus 5,000 plus 20,000 plus	
	No anticipated changes from the historical average number of fires or acres under this alternative.		Reduced estimated acreages that could be subject to wildland fire.		Fire suppression acreage figures would be similar to Alternative B.		Suppression would be based on appropriate response and fires would be allowed to burn to natural barriers if the fire is not a threat to		Overall, fire management would emphasize a maximum return of fire on the landscape.		No anticipated changes from the historical average number of fires or acres under this alternative.	

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
				life, property or resource values.		
Fire Management Unit	Fire History 1980-2006	Potential Wildland Fire Impacts				
Wild and Scenic WSAs and ACEC North Monument South Monument	19 fires 612 acres 39 fires 4,290 acres 43 fires 523 acres 43 fires 2,552 acres	- 10% No change - 20% - 20%	- 10% No change - 20% - 20%	- 10% + 50% + 50% + 40%	Potentially a significant increase in wildland fires.	Similar to Alternative A.
Wilderness Study Areas	The WSAs are in good condition, with some exceptions where vehicles and/or boating traffic have affected the resource. 49 miles of vehicle ways would remain open yearlong, 1 mile would be open seasonally, and 2 miles would be closed.	The WSAs are in good condition, with some exceptions where vehicles and/or boating traffic have affected the resource. 35 miles of vehicle ways would remain open yearlong, 7 miles would be open seasonally, and 10 miles would be closed.	The impacts would be similar to those in Alternative A, except restricting travel on some WSA vehicle ways would protect the sensitive vegetation and soil resources. 31 miles of vehicle ways would remain open yearlong, 3 miles would be open seasonally, and 17 miles would be closed.	The impacts would be similar to those in Alternative A, except closing most vehicle ways (36 miles) would protect the sensitive vegetation and soil resources. 16 miles would be open yearlong.	The impacts would be similar to Alternative D, except not allowing the use of game carts on closed vehicle ways protects the landscape from other potential future mechanical or mechanized trends in recreation.	The impacts would be similar to those in Alternative A, except restricting spring and fall use of WSA vehicle ways would protect the sensitive vegetation and soil resources. 9 miles of vehicles ways would remain open yearlong, 15 miles would be open seasonally, and 27 miles would be closed.
Social	Under Alternatives A, B and parts of C, Monument management would not differ a great deal from how it has been managed in the past. Groups and individuals who give a high priority to resource use, as well as many ranchers and other local residents, indicate that Monument management should continue as it has in the past and that this management has adequately protected Monument resources. The quality of life of the above groups and individuals would be enhanced by these alternatives because their lifestyle needs would be met.			The activities in the Monument would be more restricted than under Alternatives A and B. Groups and individuals who desire a primitive, quiet recreation	The activities in the Monument would be more restricted than under any other alternative. Groups and individuals who desire a primitive,	The activities in the Monument would be more restricted than under Alternatives A and B. Groups and individuals who desire a primitive, quiet recreation

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
	Opportunities for motorized recreation predominate under these alternatives. Game retrieval by motorized vehicle would be the most liberal. Livestock permittees would continue to access their allotments as they have in the past and resource reserve allotments could allow added management flexibility. Groups and individuals who desire a primitive, quiet recreation experience, and those who would give a high priority to resource protection, would not feel the Monument resources would be adequately protected, the opportunities they desire would be available or that these alternatives offer the ability to address current or future problems. Quality of life for these groups and individuals may decline under these alternatives.			experience, and those who would give a high priority to resource protection, would feel the Monument resources would be adequately protected and the opportunities alternatives they desire would be available. Quality of life for these groups and individuals may be enhanced under these alternatives. These alternatives would lay the groundwork to address current and future issues as they emerge. Opportunities to retrieve game by motorized vehicles would be less numerous than under Alternatives A, B, and C, but would still provide some opportunities for hunters. Livestock permittees would continue to access their allotments with	quiet recreation experience, and those who would give a high priority to resource protection, would feel the Monument resources would be adequately protected and the opportunities alternatives they desire would be available. Quality of life for these groups and individuals would be enhanced under these alternatives. However, they may also feel that the proposed restrictions under this alternative would be too extreme. Opportunities to retrieve game by motorized vehicle would be the most restricted of all the alternatives and would not provide opportunities for hunters. Livestock	experience, and those who would give a high priority to resource protection, would feel the Monument resources would be adequately protected and the opportunities alternatives they desire would be available. Quality of life for these groups and individuals may be enhanced under these alternatives. These alternatives would lay the groundwork to address current and future issues as they emerge. Opportunities to retrieve game by motorized vehicles would be less numerous than under Alternatives A, B, and C, but would still provide some opportunities for hunters. Livestock permittees would continue to access their allotments with

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
				minimal restrictions and resource reserve allotments could allow added management flexibility. Opportunities for motorized recreation would decline relative to Alternatives A, B and C, and opportunities for primitive, quiet experiences would be enhanced. Groups and individuals who give a high priority to resource use, as well as many ranchers and other local residents, indicate that Monument management should continue as it has in the past and that this management has adequately protected Monument resources. The quality of life of the above groups and individuals may be diminished by these	permittees' access to their allotments would be somewhat limited and other restrictions would be imposed which could make management of livestock and range improvements more difficult. Groups and individuals who give a high priority to resource use, as well as many ranchers and other local residents, indicate that Monument management should continue as it has in the past and that this management has adequately protected Monument resources. The quality of life of the above groups and individuals may be diminished by these alternatives.	minimal restrictions and resource reserve allotments could allow added management flexibility. Opportunities for motorized recreation would decline relative to Alternatives A, B and C, and opportunities for primitive, quiet experiences would be enhanced. Groups and individuals who give a high priority to resource use, as well as many ranchers and other local residents, indicate that Monument management should continue as it has in the past and that this management has adequately protected Monument resources. The quality of life of the above groups and individuals may be diminished by these alternatives.

Table 2.42 Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource	*Alternative A (Current Mgmt)*	*Alternative B*	*Alternative C*	*Alternative D*	*Alternatives E and E_{NL}*	*Alternative F (Preferred Alt)*
				alternatives.		
Economics	Potential changes in forage availability would not create a measurable effect on ranching in the study area, but some individuals with grazing allotments within the Monument may have to make minor adjustments in their operations in response to some of the direction in the alternatives. Proposed changes to VRM classifications would not affect routine maintenance, but may require modifications to some proposed projects (e.g. reservoir building) that would increase project cost. In the uplands section of the Monument, the supply of recreational activities exceeds the current and near future demand for these opportunities. The changes in management direction in the alternatives would not materially affect this relationship, although some changes in management direction in upland areas may inconvenience or require adjustments by upland outfitters and recreationists such as hunters. Additionally, some changes in management direction for the wild and scenic river portion could affect river users, including outfitters and guides and recreationists. The net economic effect on recreationists of the proposed Alternatives is unknown, but likely minimal as the total number of affected recreationists is relatively small and each alternative may benefit some users while harming other users. The Monument transportation plan will affect access to the Monument and also the nature of the landscape. Alternatives C, D, E, and F would reduce the mileage of open roads and the number of open airstrips in the Monument. Road closures can result in economic benefits through positive impacts on wildlife, resource and scenic amenities, and environmental quality, but can result in economic loss through negative effects on resident, visitor, and recreation access. The net economic effect of each Alternative is not known. Protection of the natural resources of the Monument, including biological, cultural, scenic and geological objects, differs by Alternative. However, the remote location of the Monument and the fact that all Alternatives provide resource protection for the objects of the Monument suggests that the incremental economic benefits to recreationists and the local economy of additional resource protection may be restricted. Natural gas operations would affect government revenue, output, employment, and labor income in the regional economy but the change only represents a very small fraction of the economy as discussed under natural gas exploration and development.					
	Change in output, employment, and labor income in the regional economy for Alternatives B, C, E, and F (Preferred Alternative)					
Output ($) Employment (jobs) Labor Income ($) Royalties ($) Disbursements ($)	No change.	+ 1,400,000 + 9 + 190,000 + 91,000 + 46,000	- 700,000 - 4 - 120,000 - 58,000 - 29,000	- 2,100,000 - 14 - 390,000 - 191,000 - 96,000	- 3,500,000 - 22 - 650,000 - 316,000 - 158,000	- 90,000 - 1 - 20,000 - 8,000 - 4,000